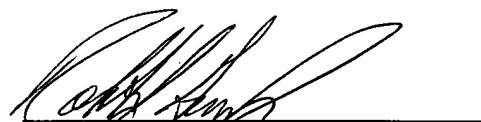


Remarks

Claims 1 – 16 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended.  
No other changes are made.

Claims 1 – 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Number 5,725,887 to *Martin, et al.* Applicants have amended Claims 1 – 16 to specify that the claimed ophthalmic solution has a pH greater than 8.0. This amendment finds support in the specification at page 2, lines 19 – 20; page 3, lines 6 – 8; page 7, line 1, *et seq.* As cited by the Examiner, *Martin* teaches that the pH of the solution should be between 5.5 and 8 at Col. 7, lines 16 – 22. No ophthalmic solution with a pH of greater than 8 is disclosed or suggested by *Martin*. The presently claimed solutions, on the other hand, are surprisingly stable at a pH greater than 8, as is shown in the examples. Applicant therefore submits that the presently claimed solutions having a pH greater than 8.0 are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art, and respectfully requests allowance of Claims 1 – 16.

Respectfully submitted,



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